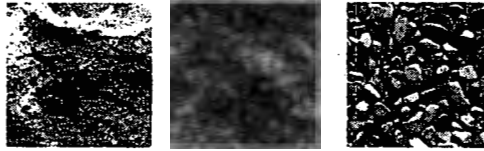


NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION



Natural building blocks for quality of life

May 2, 2006

Mr. Daniel A. Meer
Chief, Response, Planning and Assessment Branch, Superfund Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Meer:

Thank you very much for the generous amount of your time you afforded my colleague Gus Edwards and me during our visit to Region IX on April 25. We hope the meeting opened lines of direct communication between EPA Region IX and the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association on the important issues surrounding naturally occurring asbestos in El Dorado Hills. Let me reiterate that we at NSSGA share your deep concern about the health effects of naturally occurring asbestos and want to assure that the citizens of El Dorado receive the best available scientific information on which to base public policy and health decisions.

In your letter of March 9, 2006, to Dr. R. J. Lee and me, you requested that we respond "within 60 days" of the date of your letter to a comprehensive set of 13 questions and numerous sub-questions regarding Dr. Lee's review of EPA's analysis of asbestos data from El Dorado Hills. As we mentioned at the April 25 meeting, we are in the process of developing detailed responses to your questions and were on target to have the answers completed by May 9, 2006. However, as you are aware, the document you provided us at the April 25 meeting – "Response to the November 2005 National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association Report Prepared by the R. J. Lee Group, Inc., 'Evaluation of EPA's Analytical Data from the El Dorado Hills Asbestos Evaluation Project'" (April 20, 2006) – was the first time we had seen the document. Now having had the opportunity to review it, we believe it raises additional issues and concerns that require further detailed response.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you grant us the courtesy of an extension of 60 days from May 9, 2006, so that we may respond fully and accurately to your

Mr. Daniel A. Meer

May 2, 2006

Page Two

questions and assertions. We make this request in the interest of avoiding any further misunderstanding or misinformation finding their way into the public discourse. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. C. Ford", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William C. Ford, P.E.

Senior Vice President

cc: Jere Johnson